

I wish to protest in the strongest possible terms the proposal to allow corporations to own EVEN MORE broadcast outlets. This is a tremendous misuse of the public airwaves. It smothers diversity, regional ownership and the tailoring of programming to regional tastes. When a single entity programs content for hundreds or thousands of stations all over the country, all idiosyncracies of local control are smoothed off, and what's left is a generic pabulum offensive to none and as a direct consequence stimulating to none. In this environment there is no opportunity for local artists to get airplay and reach a larger audience, and local participation in the community is eliminated.

As we've seen recently in the banning of the Dixie Chicks from Clear Channel stations, the craven desire to suppress our most cherished freedom--the freedom to express our beliefs without fear--in order to pander to certain ignorant elements, can have consequences that affect the whole country instead of a few local stations.

Far from increasing the number of stations that one entity can control, you should be decreasing them. The experiment over the last few years in increasing this number has been an obvious and grotesque failure to anyone who really cares about content diversity, creativity in programming, and local control.

The airwaves belong to us all. The job of the FCC is to protect the interests of the public from the engulf-and-devour tendencies of corporations which only care about extracting the maximum possible profit. Do your job!

Richard